

The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 2.

THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS—The Richmond Sentinel of Monday last announced the departure from that city, on Sunday morning, of Messrs. A. H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter, and James M. Campbell. A telegram from Petersburg reports their arrival at that place, and states that they would be passed through the Confederate lines on the following morning—Monday. That they did make application to pass through Gen. Grant's lines at the time appointed is also made evident by a telegram from City Point, dated on Tuesday.—Owing, however, to some misunderstanding they were turned back temporarily; but it was expected that the difficulty would be arranged within twenty four hours, and that they would be at once sent to Washington by a special steamer.

The Richmond Sentinel says "that on Mr. Blair's second visit to Richmond he brought the consent of Mr. Lincoln to receive and confer with any agents informally sent with a view to the restoration of peace. The three gentlemen who left yesterday, were therefore selected by Mr. Davis, and they have gone without formal credentials and merely as informal agents, to see whether it be possible to place a conference for peace on any basis which may serve for attaining so desirable results."

The Richmond Sentinel of January 31 contains the following:

"A gentleman who was at the army on yesterday at Petersburg, when Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell passed through our lines on their way to Washington, says that the shouting along the lines was prolonged and enthusiastic. It would, indeed, be delightful if there was any room to hope that the Washington authorities are prepared for such terms of peace as would allow the soldiers to disperse. Once before the acclamations of the armies were united. When they lay confronted at Fredericksburg a fine military band played in succession "Yankee Doodle," "Dixie," and other national airs. These were appropriately responded to by the two armies alternately: but when the band struck up "Home, Sweet Home," the opposing camps forgot their hostility, and united in a vociferous tribute to the common sentiment."

The Baltimore American of this morning says that this whole subject has "assumed a new phase of importance by the departure of Mr. Seward, the U. S. Secretary of State for Fortress Monroe or City Point, at one of which places it is presumed he will meet the Peace Commissioners. It is intimated that Mr. Seward's mission is to elicit the views of the Commissioners, and to ascertain whether they propose to secure peace by a return to the Union and submit to the supreme laws of the land. If they are not prepared to agree to these terms as the basis of any further agreement, or insist upon any sort of acknowledgment of the independence of the Confederacy, then the negotiations will be ended and the Commissioners will not come to Washington."

The Washington Chronicle of this morning, in commenting on the Peace Rumors and Peace Missions, in a double headed editorial, says:—"There is only one condition of restoration.—It is not the abolition of slavery. To that both sides have at last agreed, the one because it desired, the other because it could not help it. That condition is, that the Union shall be restored."

NEWS BY TO-DAY'S MAIL.

Gov. Bradford yesterday communicated to the Legislature of Maryland, the passage of the amendment to the U. S. Constitution abolishing slavery, and the House of Delegates immediately approved the amendment by a vote of 53 yeas, to 23 nays. Thus Maryland is one of the first, if not the first, to ratify this amendment to the Constitution.

The total casualties in General Terry's army in the fight at Fort Fisher were six hundred and ninety one. Of these, eleven officers and seventy seven men were killed, thirty nine officers and four hundred and seventy two men wounded, and ninety two men missing.

Mr. Robert Lincoln, (son of President Lincoln,) who is now in New York, will upon his return to Washington enter the army as a volunteer aid on the staff of Gen. Grant, with the rank of Captain without pay.

A Natchez letter says, General Davidson, in assuming command of that city has extended his lines on the roads leading out of the city, so as to protect the several plantations, and all the troops are now encamped outside of the city.

The northern States of Mexico which are said to be ceded to the French Emperor have an area of 305,000 square miles, or fifty per cent. more than the whole of France, and nearly one half of the entire territorial surface of Mexico.

An "intelligent Frenchman" is about to open a cooking academy in New York, where a course of twenty lessons will turn out professional cooks armed with diplomas, to bake, boil, roast and stew.

A person calling himself Thos. W. Flanner is travelling through the country fraudulently representing himself as an agent from the office of Internal Revenue, and imposing upon revenue officers and the public in general.

General Hayes, captured at the battle of the Mine Run, near Petersburg, last July, is reported to have been specially exchanged. This is the second time General Hayes has been made a prisoner since the war.

J. S. Rock, (colored,) of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, was yesterday admitted an attorney and counsellor in the U. S. Supreme Court.

All the contrabands at Natchez and Vidalia have been ordered to work on the farms back of the latter place, and furnished with rations under supervision.

General Grant returned to Fortress Monroe on Monday from a visit to Fort Fisher. Nothing of importance had taken place in the vicinity of that fort.

Senators Nye and Stewart, of the new State of Nevada, were sworn in yesterday and took their seats in the U. S. Senate.

The nomination of Gen. Meade as Major General in the Regular Army of the U. S., was yesterday confirmed by the Senate.

The steamer Warrior, arrived at Fortress Monroe, brings five hundred prisoners captured by General Sherman.

The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin establishment was sold yesterday at auction for \$89,000. (!)

It is said that there are numbers of steamers preparing for privateers at Havana.

Secretary Seward is on a visit to Fortress Monroe and City Point.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, a communication was received from the Secretary of War setting forth the circumstances of the arrest of Lieut. Col. Jacobs and Colonel Woolford, of Kentucky. Also one from the President relative to the shipment of arms from California to Mexico in a French vessel. Mr. Sherman introduced a bill to prevent National Banks paying out other than United States currency. A proposition to allow the vote of Nevada to be cast in the electoral college was discussed but not determined. In the House Mr. Cresswell offered a resolution of inquiry as to the amount paid loyal slaveholders for slaves enlisted in the army. The bill for a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara was passed.

LEGISLATIVE.—A bill for the relief of persons hiring negroes in certain cases, was passed in the Senate, on Tuesday. In the House Mr. Birch of Northampton gave a statement of his recent arrest and detention by order of one of Gen. Butler's officers. The resolution was passed referring the statement to a special committee, and declaring it to be satisfactory.

DIED.

Near Beltsville, Md., on the 31st ult., Miss ELIZA HERBERT, of this place, daughter of the late Wm. Herbert, senior. Her funeral took place from the residence of the late John C. Herbert, to-day.

In Richmond, Virginia, January 20, Mrs. ISABELLA RITCHIE, relict of Thomas Ritchie, in the 76th year of her age.

On Friday, the 27th ult., at her late residence, in Prince George's County, Md., Mrs. ELIZABETH GRIMES, consort of the late Thomas Grimes, in the 59th year of her age.

A COURSE OF LECTURES.

A course of lectures, three in number, will be delivered at

LIBERTY HALL,

during the coming and succeeding two weeks.

The first of the course will be delivered on

THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 2,

by the

REV. DR. S. H. COX, of New York.

Subject:—"English Poetry, With Explanations and Recitations."

Second lecture by

REV. J. MCKENDRY REILLY, of Baltimore.

Subject:—"Our Age, Country and Bible."

Third lecture by

HON. JAS. K. DOOLITTLE,

Senator in the U. S. Senate from the State of Wisconsin.

Subject to be announced hereafter.

Tickets for a single lecture 50 cents, for the course \$1, to be had at Mr. Bell's book-store, the State Journal Office, Mr. Entwistle's and Mr. French's Book Stores, and at the door.

Proceeds to be applied to the benefit of Christ Church.

Doors open at 7 o'clock; Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock. jan 30—tf

VICTOR BECKER, PIANO TUNER & REGULATOR.

Will attend promptly to the Tuning and Repairing of Pianos, Melodeons, Accordeons, &c., &c. Orders will be received at Mr. Robert Bell's Book Store, No. 61, King street; with Mr. John H. Parrott, and at V. B's. residence, 241, King st.

V. BECKER also offers his services and long experience in the business, to Persons wanting new Pianos, and wishing the advice of an able and disinterested judge. feb 1—lm

CEDAR POSTS.

200 SAWED CEDAR POSTS, averaging 9 feet in length, for sale by

D. R. WILSON,

jan 26—2w*

No. 4, Prince street.